

I urge you to oppose the AT&T Comcast merger, which threatens the public interest principles that are essential to the Internet as an open and nondiscriminatory communications medium. The cable industry has long been characterized by anticompetitive local monopolies, restrictive control over content and services, high subscription rates and poor customer service. There is every reason to believe that these practices will be replicated in the combined company's control over high-speed Internet connections. AT&T Comcast will become a powerful media gatekeeper, leveraging its control over the network to exert undo influence over the evolution of broadband Internet content and services. The resulting lack of competition, innovation and diversity will harm both our economy and our democracy in the long run, with consumers left to bear the costs.

It is time to stand up and defend the consumer or at least respect consumers' opinions on whether THEY think these mergers are in their interest or not. The fact is that all surveys show consumers do not believe these mergers are ever done in their interest - monopolies are destructive to the work force and macro economics in general, and most often exploit either the consumers or its very own workers. Please do not allow the kind of thinking that tries to justify all for company profits exclusively, without any regard for those it will affect negatively - which in most cases happens to be the general population -...as this kind of thinking will again, in turn, compromise the overall stability of the free market system in general.